

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

and various French bishops.¹ Early in December, Raimondo set out. After more than a year's separation, they had only passed a few days in each other's company, and Catherine, while urging him to go in the service of the Church, felt the separation most keenly. Instinctively, she knew that the long conversation they had together before he started was to be their last: "We shall never speak like this to each other again," she said. The ship lay waiting in the Tiber, that was to take him to Pisa. Catherine accompanied him to the bank; when the sailors began to row> she knelt awhile in prayer, and then, rising and weeping, made the sign of the Cross as the ship passed away. "She seemed to be saying," writes the friar: "thou, my son, wilt go in safety, for the sign of the holy Cross is protecting thee ; but, in this life, thou shalt never see thy mother more."

Raimondo's ship, in spite of the Clementine galleys that were guarding the mouth of the Tiber and scouring all the Italian coast, reached Pisa in safety. Here he received a letter from Catherine, written "with desire of seeing you illumined with a true and most perfect light." "Do you know," she asks, ^{<1} how much my soul desires this ? As much as she desires herself to be delivered from darkness, and to be united and blended with the light. I beseech you, by the love of Christ crucified and of that sweet Mother Mary, that you strive, to the utmost of your power, to fulfil in yourself the will of God and my desire; for then will my soul be blessed. It is no longer time to sleep, but to wake up from the slumber of negligence and rise up from the blindness of ignorance, and royally espouse the truth with the ring of most holy faith, and proclaim that truth, never keeping it

¹ Cf. Denifle, *CAartularium Universitatis Parisiensis*, Tom. lii. pp. 663-665. The brief, giving the friar authority for preaching and acting against the election of Clement, is dated November 8, the others November 21 and 28 ; but it is clear from Raimondo's own words in the *Legenda* that he left Rome at least some days after Catherine's arrival, and her Letter 323 (54) shows that he had started by December 13,